THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) to (c) Most of the Concession Agreements for Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) Projects have a provision to use smart cards for tolling systems. Some of the Concessionaires are already using smart cards for tolling e.g. on Jaipur — Kishangarh, Delhi-Gurgaon expressway and Gurgaon — Jaipur sections of NH-8. Smart Cards are being used for local traffic and monthly pass holders, also.

Export promotion council for handicrafts

2292. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has prepared any new policy on export promotion council for handicrafts and other products;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status of Andhra Pradesh in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Department of Commerce, DGFT has informed that in the new Foreign Trade Policy 2009-14 announced on 27.8.2009 under Focus Product Scheme (FPS), all handicraft products have been categorised as Special Focus Product and are, accordingly, entitled to a benefit of duty credit scrip @5% of FOB value of exports, as against the normal rate of 2% for Focus Products. Handmade carpets and other textile floor covering have also been categorised as Special Focus Products and thus, are entitled to a benefit of duty credit scrip @5% of FOB value of exports.

(c) The above benefits are available on all handicraft products and handmade carpets and other textile floor covering exported from the country including the State of Andhra Pradesh.

Steps to boost apparel exports

2293. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether apparel export had hit their rock bottom line during the last one year;

(b) if so, the apparel exports made during each of the four quarters of 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 (April, July, October, 2009) so far; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to boost apparel exports and the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) No, Sir. In fact, India's apparel export was US$ 10243 million in 2008-09 recording an increase of 12.93% over the apparel export during the previous year.

(b) The apparel export on quarterly basis during the year 2007-08 onwards is given below:—

US$ Million

Year/Quarter	1st Quarter (April-June)	2nd Quarter (July-September)	3rd Quarter (October-December)	4th Quarter (January-March)
2007-08	2139.79	2117.39	1984.49	2673.22
2008-09	2440.04	2131.59	2082.64	2866.43
2009-10	2430.09	Not available	Not available	Not available

Source: Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Kolkata

(c) The Government introduced stimulus packages on 7th December, 2008 and 2nd January, 2009 which are intended to boost India's exports including apparel exports. These apart, the Foreign Trade Policy 2009-14, includes a number of schemes and incentives aimed at enhancing exports of apparel. The net result of these measures cannot be assessed at this stage.

NTC mills

†2294. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of National Textile Corporation mills alongwith their locations, State-wise and Union Territory-wise;

(b) the number of mills shut down out of them so far;

(c) the amount sanctioned by Government for restarting the shut-down mills during the last five years;

(d) the names of mills restarted so far, likely to be restarted; and

(e) the number of workers rendered jobless due to closure of mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) There were 119 sick mills under the National Textile Corporation (NTC) as per State-wise list given in Statement-I (*See* below).

(b) 77 mills have been closed under Industrial Disputes Act as per Revival Scheme approved by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). List of these mills is given in Statement-II (*See* below).

(c) and (d) Does not arise. There is no proposal to restart the shut down mills which have been closed after due approval of BIFR.

(e) The workers of closed mills have been paid compensation by NTC under the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.